DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 239 693 JC 840 070

TITLE	Research Synopsis: Spring 1983 Retention.
INSTITUTION	Peralta Community Coll. District, Oakland, CA. Office of Research, Planning and Development.
PUB DATE	83
NOTE	11p.
PUB TYPE	Statistical Data (110) -- Reports - Research/Technical (143)
EDRS PRICE	MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS	Academic Persistence; Community Colleges; *Dropout Rate; Educational Trends; *Enrollment Rate; *Grades (Scholastic); Multicampus Districts; Two Year Colleges; *Withdrawal (Education)

ABSTRACT

An analysis of spring 1983 retention rates and grade distributions within the Peralta Community College District (PCCD) revealed: (1) College of Alameda had the highest successful retention rate in the PCCD, defined as the total of all students who completed the term with a grade of A, B, C, D, or CR (credit); (2) the PCCD's successful retention rate remained at 63.8% for both spring 1982 and spring 1983; (3) successful retention rates were slightly higher for spring terms than for fall terms, with the rate for fall 1981 at 60.7% and for fall 1982 at 62.9%; (3) the total retention rate, defined as the percentage of students who received any grade other than W (withdrawal), was 72.9% for the district as a whole; (4) total retention rates ranged from 70.8% to 80.7% at the colleges in the district; (5) of the PCCD's total class enrollment of 92,975 students, 25% earned A's; 16% earned B's; 11% earned C's; 3% earned D's; 4% earned F's; 11% earned CR's; and 24% earned W's; and (6) a trendline comparison of grade distributions revealed them to be quite stable over the past 4 terms. (Author/LAL)

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PERALTA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
Office of Research, Planning and Development

RESEARCH SYNOPSIS: SPRING 1983 RETENTION

Improving student retention remains one of the major goals of community colleges in general and of the Peralta District in particular. Since the Fall 1980 term, statistics have been provided by this office on the state of student retention at the Peralta District's colleges. The data have been provided primarily for administrators and faculty to compare retention rates for different terms, colleges and disciplines at each of the colleges.

The definitions of CW1 Adjusted Enrollment, Successful Retention and Total Retention used in this report are the same as the definitions used in the Fall retention reports. CW1 Adjusted Enrollment is CW1 enrollment plus all adds until the end of the term. Successful retention is the total of all students who completed the term with a grade of A, B, C, D or CR. Total Retention is the total of all students who completed the term and received a grade other than "W".

The Fall retention studies are more complee than this brief fact sheet and should be used if a more thorough analysis is desired.

*****HIGHLIGHTS*****

** College of Alameda had the highest successful retention rate for the Spring 1983 term - 65.0%.

** The District's successful retention rate remained the same for the Spring 1983 term as for the Spring 1982 term - 63.8%.

** District successful retention rates have been slightly higher for Spring terms than for Fall terms. (District successful retention rates for the past four terms are: Fall 1981 - 60.7%; Spring 1982 - 63.8%; Fall 1982 - 62.9%; Spring 1983 - 63.8%.) The higher successful retention rate for the Spring terms than the Fall terms coincides with a smaller percentage of decline in WSCH from CW1 to CW2 for the Spring terms compared to the Fall terms.

** The district-wide grade distribution has remained quite stable over the past four terms. Approximately one-fourth of all students enrolled in classes at CW1 receive an "A" grade.

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TABLE 1
STUDENT RETENTION: SPRING 1983

COLLEGE	CW1 ADJUSTED ENROLLMENT	SUCCESSFUL RETENTION		TOTAL RETENTION	
	N	N	%	N	%
COA	15,448	10,035	65.0	10,999	71.2
Laney	35,694	22,916	64.2	25,272	70.8
Merritt	23,739	14,737	62.1	17,120	72.1
Vista	16,995	10,979	64.6	13,272	78.1
FRC	4,618	2,921	63.3	3,729	80.7
District	96,494	61,588	63.8	70,392	72.9

TABLE 2
COMPARISON OF STUDENT RETENTION RATES
SPRING 1982 - SPRING 1983

COLLEGE	CWI ADJUSTED ENROLLMENT	SUCCESSFUL RETENTION		TOTAL RETENTION	
	N	N	%	N	%
COA					
S-82	18,831	11,952	63.5	13,258	70.4
S-83	15,448	10,035	65.0	10,999	71.2
Laney					
S-82	34,769	22,518	64.8	15,267	72.7
S-83	35,694	22,916	64.2	25,272	70.8
Merritt					
S-82	27,505	16,774	61.0	19,638	71.4
S-83	23,739	14,737	62.1	17,120	72.1
Vista					
S-82	20,131	13,058	64.9	15,430	76.6
S-83	16,995	10,979	64.6	13,272	78.1
FRC					
S-82	4,546	3,153	69.4	3,765	82.8
S-83	4,618	2,921	63.3	3,729	80.7
District					
S-82	105,782	67,455	63.8	77,358	73.1
S-83	96,494	61,588	63.8	70,392	72.9

TABLE 3
DISTRIBUTION OF GRADES BY COLLEGE
SPRING 1983

College	Total Class Enrollment	A	B	C	D	F	I	W	NCR	CR	IP
COA	14,101	33%	17%	11%	3%	3%	1%	22%	1%	8%	1%
Laney	34,693	28%	18%	14%	4%	5%	1%	27%	0%	2%	1%
Merritt	22,635	21%	18%	13%	5%	7%	2%	24%	1%	9%	0%
Vista	17,036	15%	7%	4%	1%	0%	1%	22%	12%	38%	0%
FRC	4,510	25%	14%	7%	2%	4%	1%	17%	12%	17%	1%
District	92,975	25%	16%	11%	3%	4%	1%	24%	3%	11%	1%

TABLE 4
TRENDLINE COMPARISON OF GRADE DISTRIBUTION
PERCENTAGE OF FINAL CLASS ENROLLMENT RECEIVING EACH GRADE

College	Final Class Enrollment	A	B	C	D	F	I	W	NCR	CR	IP
COA											
F-81	17,394	29%	20%	13%	3%	5%	1%	21%	2%	5%	1%
S-82	16,606	33%	17%	12%	3%	4%	1%	20%	3%	7%	0%
F-82	14,850	29%	18%	13%	3%	5%	1%	23%	1%	6%	1%
S-83	14,101	33%	17%	11%	3%	3%	1%	22%	1%	8%	1%
Laney											
F-81	30,674	27%	18%	14%	5%	6%	1%	26%	0%	2%	1%
S-82	33,481	29%	17%	14%	5%	6%	1%	24%	0%	2%	2%
F-82	34,288	27%	17%	14%	5%	5%	1%	28%	0%	2%	1%
S-83	34,693	28%	18%	14%	4%	5%	1%	27%	0%	2%	1%
Merritt											
F-81	26,321	20%	17%	13%	5%	8%	3%	23%	3%	8%	0%
S-82	25,635	21%	18%	14%	4%	7%	2%	23%	2%	9%	0%
F-82	23,274	19%	17%	14%	5%	7%	3%	24%	1%	9%	1%
S-83	22,635	21%	18%	13%	5%	7%	2%	24%	1%	9%	0%
Vista											
F-81	16,783	16%	6%	3%	1%	0%	1%	27%	9%	37%	0%
S-82	18,977	16%	8%	4%	0%	0%	1%	18%	12%	41%	0%
F-82	16,421	16%	8%	3%	0%	1%	2%	22%	9%	39%	0%
S-83	17,036	15%	7%	4%	1%	0%	1%	22%	12%	38%	0%
FRC											
F-81	3,841	27%	15%	8%	2%	5%	1%	16%	8%	18%	0%
S-82	4,478	31%	13%	7%	2%	4%	0%	16%	10%	17%	0%
F-82	2,993	30%	14%	10%	2%	5%	2%	17%	8%	11%	1%
S-83	4,510	25%	14%	7%	2%	4%	1%	17%	12%	17%	1%
District											
F-81	95,013	24%	16%	11%	4%	5%	2%	24%	3%	11%	0%
S-82	99,177	25%	15%	11%	3%	5%	1%	22%	4%	13%	1%
F-82	91,826	24%	15%	11%	4%	5%	2%	24%	3%	11%	1%
S-83	92,975	25%	16%	11%	3%	4%	1%	24%	3%	11%	1%

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